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DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED BY THE HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON TRANSPORT, ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH

Note by the Executive Secretary

The attached decisions and recommendations were adopted at the High-level Meeting on Transport, Environment and Health on 4 May 2001 and are submitted to the Commission for endorsement.

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DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED BY THE HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON TRANSPORT, ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH

The High-Level Meeting,

RECOGNIZING the efforts already undertaken by transport, environment and health sectors both at national and international levels for achieving transport sustainable for health and the environment;

NOTING that these efforts have led in 1997 to the adoption of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Joint Action on Transport and Environment, and in 1999 to the London Charter on Transport, Environment and Health;

AWARE of the need to reinforce the cooperative efforts as well as to take further steps to create the impetus needed for achieving these goals;

RECALLING the relevant provisions of the London Charter on Transport, Environment and Health by which WHO and UN/ECE had been invited, jointly and in cooperation with other international organizations, to provide an overview of relevant existing agreements and legal instruments on transport, environment and health with a view to improving and harmonizing their implementation and developing them further; these organizations were invited also to recommend which further steps are needed for making transport sustainable for environment and health, covering also *" the possibility of new non-legally binding actions and the feasibility, necessity and content of a new legally binding instrument on transport, environment and health focusing on bringing added value to, and avoiding overlaps with existing agreements";*

RECALLING that the London Declaration further requested *inter alia* that *" the decision on negotiation of such an instrument shall be taken as soon as possible after the submission of the report, at a meeting of Ministers of Transport, Environment and Health of Member States or their representatives, convened for that purpose by WHO and UN/ECE";*

HAVING APPRECIATED the preparation of the comprehensive Synthesis Report: "Overview of Instruments Relevant to Transport, Environment and Health" which presents in general the major trends in transport developments as well as the impacts of transport on human health and the environment, and which then focuses on a number of key challenges and reviews the relevant international response to date in these areas, concluding by recommendations on next steps to be taken;

WELCOMING the cooperative and consultative arrangements made during the London follow-up process by the WHO/Euro and UN/ECE secretariats using joint meetings and informal working groups to allow interested member States and international organizations to provide guidance during this process;

RECOGNIZING the considerable work undertaken by the WHO/Euro and UN/ECE secretariats without supplementary resources and in addition to the existing programmes of work as well as the considerable input from a large number of inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations;

1. **WELCOMES** the assessment of priorities for further work identified in the Synthesis Report, especially (a) the integration of the transport, environment and health sectors, in particular in relation to decision-making processes, monitoring and impact assessment, (b) transport-related environment and health problems in urban areas, applicable to a great extent to sensitive areas, as well as to transport corridors with heavy traffic and major transport infrastructure, and (c) the needs and role of pedestrians and cyclists participating in transport;

2. With a view to increasing visibility, quality and impact of these and other future activities in the fields of transport, environment and health as well as to ensure cost-effective use of limited resources available both at national and international levels, **ENDORSES** the approach on rationalization of the existing international institutional mechanisms established under the Vienna and London follow-up processes and on prioritisation of the related work as laid out in the Conference Room Paper of 25 April 2001; **REQUESTS** the appropriate bodies to take up the matter at their next sessions with the aim of finalizing the recommendations at the High Level Meeting on Transport, Environment and Health in 2002;

3. **CALLS UPON** the Contracting Parties to existing international agreements and legal instruments related to transport, environment and health, particularly those identified in the Synthesis Report, to further enhance implementation of those instruments and to further develop them with a view to achieving transport sustainable for the environment and health;

4. **INVITES** the concerned international organizations to further enhance cooperation as well as coordination of all activities in the fields of transport, environment and health, particularly those identified in the Synthesis Report, as well as in the London Charter and Vienna Programme of Joint Action;

5 **DECIDES** that further preparatory work to be able to decide whether to start negotiations of a Framework Convention, including the specific task of identifying the possible elements of such an instrument, shall be carried out at the international level by a tripartite task-force to be established within the framework of the London and Vienna follow-up processes, as soon as possible. NGOs and other stakeholders will be invited as observers to the meetings of this task force. A progress report on this tripartite process should be submitted to regional ministerial meetings (such as the regional preparatory meeting for the Johannesburg Summit in September 2001). Further decision should be taken at the second High Level Meeting on Transport, Environment and Health to be convened in 2002, prior to the Johannesburg Summit.

6. **INVITES** the WHO/Euro and the UN/ECE secretariats to review all possibilities for ensuring the secretariat services required for the effective implementation of these decisions and recommendations, including seeking extrabudgetary funding and redeployment of resources.